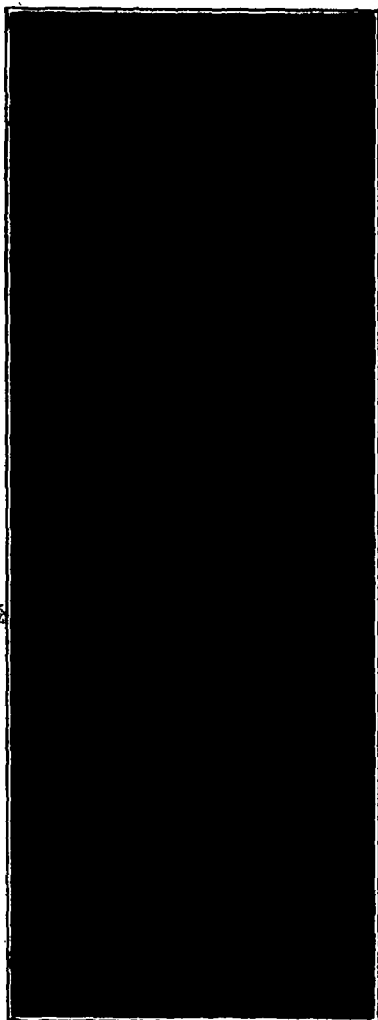


# MEDICINE HAT

ALBERTA  
CANADA

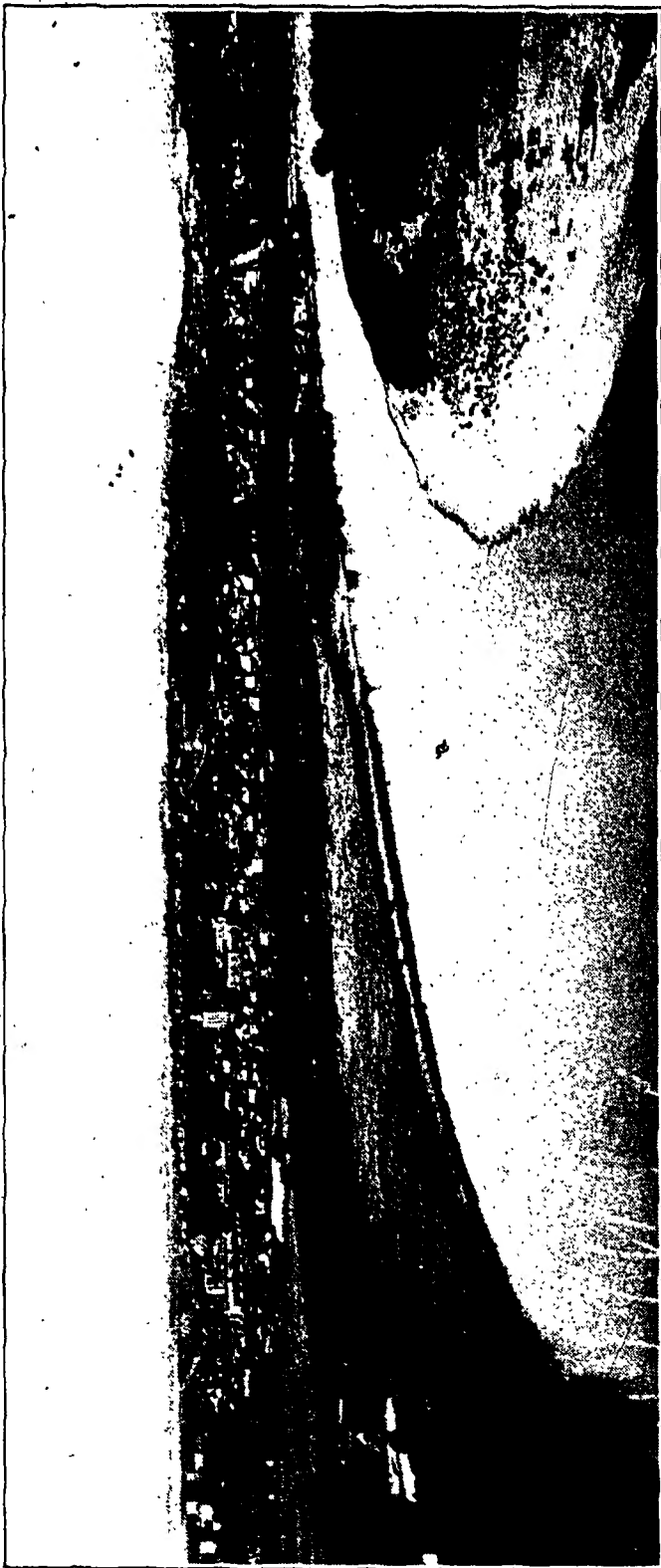


*The City  
of Untold  
Possibilities*



"The Town That Was Born  
Lucky" —Kipling

Compiled in 1939 by the  
MEDICINE HAT JUNIOR BOARD OF TRADE



MEDICINE HAT AS SEEN FROM NORTH HILL

# SHORT HISTORY OF MEDICINE HAT

SINCE THE COMING OF THE  
FIRST WHITE SETTLERS

## 1882

The nucleus of early pioneers, who formed a small community of hardy men on the site which is now the City of Medicine Hat, had its origin in the building of the Canadian Pacific Railway. As early as 1882, when the C.P.R. had been built as far as Winnipeg, a few white men pushed westward in covered wagons to form small tent towns to await the coming of the rails. In the Spring of 1883, C.P.R. construction men worked to build a pile railroad bridge across the South Saskatchewan River at a point near where the present steel bridge now stands. Soon pioneer business men were trekking stocks of goods into the new settlement by wagon. The firm of Tweed and Ewart and Mr. William Cousins were the earliest merchants. The first communal effort of these citizens was the organizing of a July 1st celebration in 1883, which was held on the open prairie about where the Dominion Bank now stands.

On the 10th of June, 1883, the first C.P.R. train pulled into Medicine Hat. At the throttle was Engineer Jim Fisher, who is still a local citizen. With the coming of the railway, lumber could be brought in and wooden structures replaced the early tents.

In 1898 the community was incorporated as a town and W. B. Marshall was elected the first Mayor by acclamation. In 1906, Mr. William Cousins became the first Mayor of the City of Medicine Hat.

From a small community of a few tents in 1883, it has become a thriving city of 10,000 people, with every modern public service. As the city grew in the past, so the present citizens are looking forward to even greater development in the future.

## 1939



SCENE AT TWILIGHT

# **Medicine Hat Boasts Abundant Supplies of Power, Heat, Water**

Medicine Hat's excellent and modern power house supplies the city with abundant water for domestic and garden use, as well as cheap electric power. Probably nowhere in the West is there as much pure water available in the summer at such a low rate. It is inevitable that it has unlimited use on the many gardens throughout the city.

The cost of electric power as produced in the city-owned power house is as cheap as the hydro-power in other communities. Its cheapness is, of course, due to the abundant supply of natural gas as a source of power. Domestic lights and appliances range from 6c to 1½c per kilowatt hour. Commercial lights and single phase power and appliances from 6c to 2c per kilo. hr. Heating is only 1½c per kilo. hr. Sign lighting and power rates, 2c per kilowatt hr.

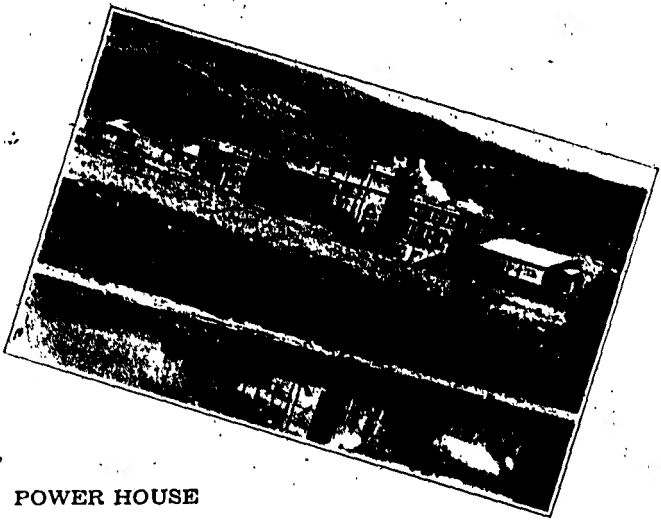
Medicine Hat has been rightly called, by Kipling, "the town that was born lucky," for it has an abundant supply of natural gas available at a cheap rate, both for commercial and domestic uses. In most localities of its occurrence, the gas contains 80 to 90 per cent Methane, the remainder of the gas being made up of heavier hydrocarbons and air constituents. In many cases the heavier hydrocarbons are capable of condensation as "natural gas gasoline." Medicine Hat natural gas, however, contains 92 to 95 per cent Methane, and is known as "dry gas," having insufficient moisture or heavier hydrocarbons to cause any trouble in the pipes from condensation and freezing.

Domestic rates are 25c per M cubic feet with 5% discount while manufacturers' rates are on a sliding scale to as low as three cents.

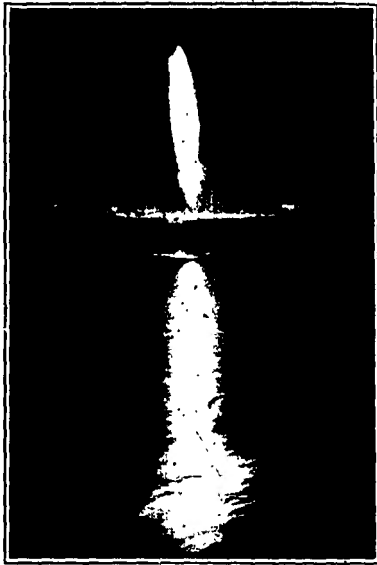
The City of Medicine Hat is one of the most fortunate of Western Canadian cities in that it is located on the banks of the South Saskatchewan River. The river winds its course along a border of trees and shrubs; its sandy banks and clear water provide a recreational ground for many citizens during the summer. The river, approximately 1,000 feet in width, is conveniently spanned by a traffic bridge and a railroad bridge—both modern and well constructed. As well as supplying a plentiful source of water for the city and bordering market gardens, the South Saskatchewan River provides excellent fishing and boating facilities which are the envy of all other prairie cities.

## **APPRECIATION**

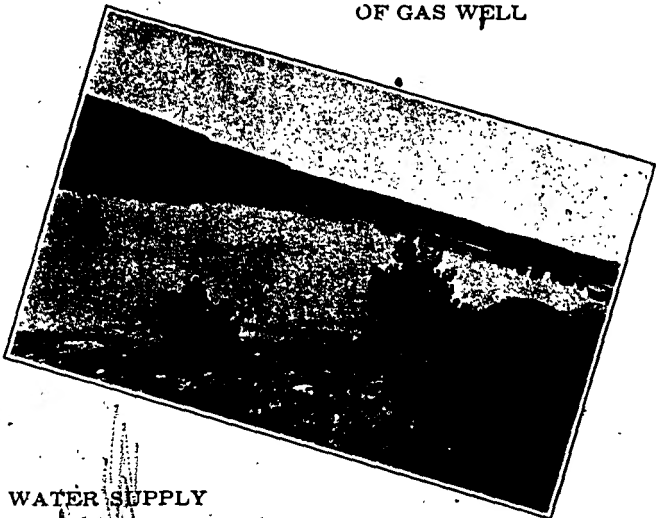
Many of the photographs in this pamphlet were made available through the splendid co-operation given the Medicine Hat Junior Board of Trade by the Gainsboro Studio, Camera Club and citizens of Medicine Hat.



POWER HOUSE



BLOWING OFF  
OF GAS WELL



WATER SUPPLY

# **Medicine Hat Claims Many Impressive Civic Buildings**

The City of Medicine Hat has many fine public buildings which speak well for the public-spirited attitude of its citizens.

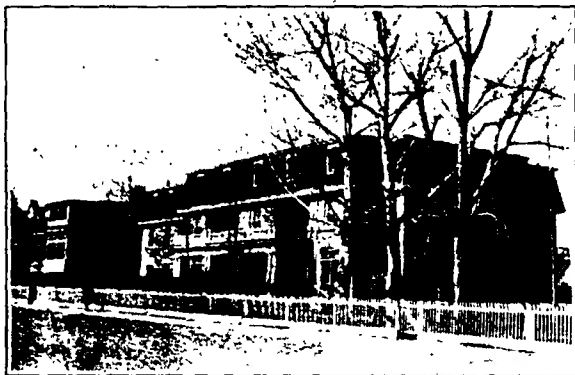
The City Hall is a large building, situated in the heart of the business section. On the main floor are the city offices, while on the second floor is a spacious Council Chamber. On the lower floor are the Police offices and Magistrate's Court. Adjoining the City Hall is one of the most modern and best equipped fire departments in Canada.

For the last two years the local fire department has topped all others in its class (for cities of 10,000 to 20,000 population) in the annual awards of the Canadian Chambers of Commerce.

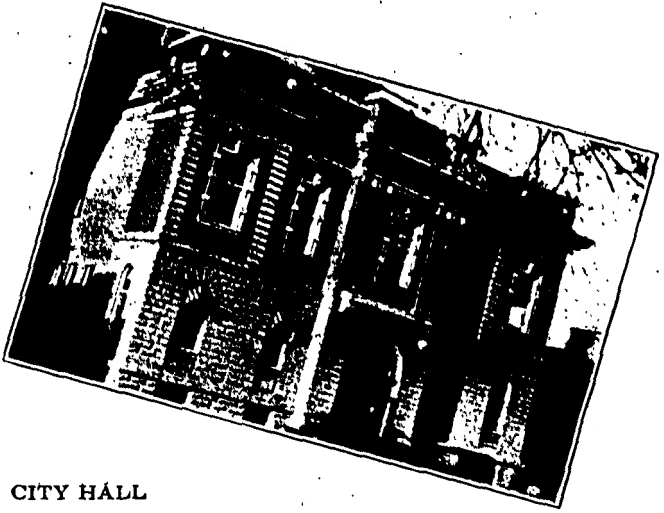
Conveniently situated across from the City Hall, in the business section, is the Post Office. A fine stone and brick building houses both the Post Office and the Customs Office.

The Court House is a comparatively new structure. It is a beautiful building of brick and white stone and surrounded by a fine expanse of lawn and tall trees. Within are excellent office rooms, a spacious Court room, chambers room, judge's room, and a large law library.

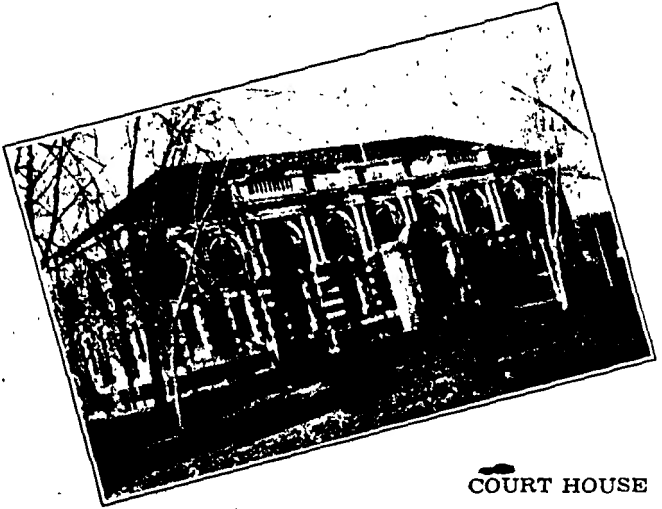
The Medicine Hat General Hospital is an institution of which many cities much larger in population might well be proud. It serves not only the civic population but a large area of surrounding country, and is noted for its high standard of efficiency in every department. It was started in a modest way but has developed amazingly to meet the requirements of a growing district. Last year this hospital celebrated its 50th anniversary.



GENERAL HOSPITAL AND NURSES' HOME



CITY HALL



COURT HOUSE



POST OFFICE

# ***Medicine Hat Has Shopping Radius Seventy-five Miles***

Medicine Hat's business section is characterized by well-lighted paved streets. The business houses are constructed of brick and stone. Four banks in the downtown area serve the city and business houses--the Bank of Montreal; Canadian Bank of Commerce; the Royal Bank of Canada and the Dominion Bank.

Many of the business firms in the city have been established for a great many years, which speaks well for the success of their respective businesses.

In the Business Section there are 285 retail business houses; four wholesale houses; three theatres, five hotels and four banks.

The five well-equipped modern hotels meet the needs of the visitor in the city, namely: Assinibola Hotel, Cosmopolitan Hotel, Royal Hotel, Cecil Hotel, Corona Hotel.

Two tourist camps—one at the east entrance to the city and one at the west—provides for tourist motorists. Both are well situated in groves of shady trees and are equipped with cabins, hot and cold water, electricity, gas stoves and showers.

The city is well served with a modern Dental Clinic and Medical Clinic, as well as by many private practicing physicians and dentists.

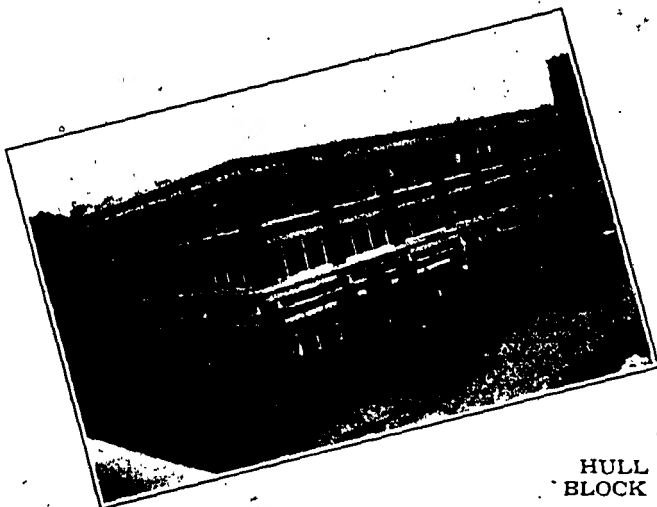
Six law firms competently attend to the legal requirements of the community and district.

## ***Tourists !***

A cordial invitation is extended to you by the industries of Medicine Hat and Redcliff to visit their plants during your stay in the city.



BUSINESS  
SECTION



HULL  
BLOCK



BUSINESS  
SECTION

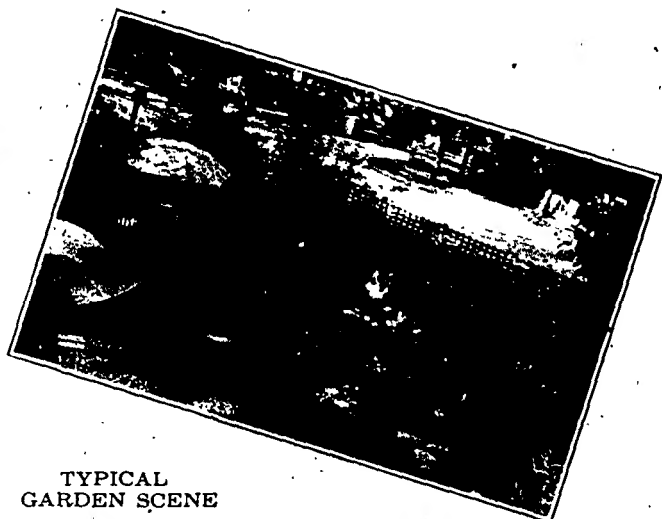
# Medicine Hat

## The Oasis of The Prairies

Medicine Hat has been aptly described as "the city of trees". Since its incorporation as a municipality, the citizens of this western community have taken a particular pride in its beautification through the planting of many trees and the development of fine gardens. The result of this effort is that the city, in summer, is a mass of green foliage, whose beauty is unsurpassed by any other Western Canadian town.

The beautifying of Medicine Hat, however, has not been confined to the efforts of the individual citizen but has become an important community effort. At the present time there are seven fine public parks, abundant with trees and a variety of flowers. These parks not only beautify the city, but provide wonderful recreational areas, during the summer months, for both young and old.

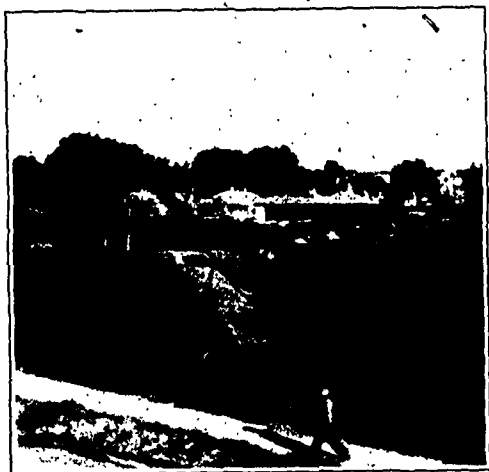
Picnicking on the broad lawns and under the great trees of Medicine Hat's municipal parks has become a popular recreation. Wading pools and two splendid swimming pools (built by the local Rotary Club and donated to the city) lure hundreds daily throughout the summer.



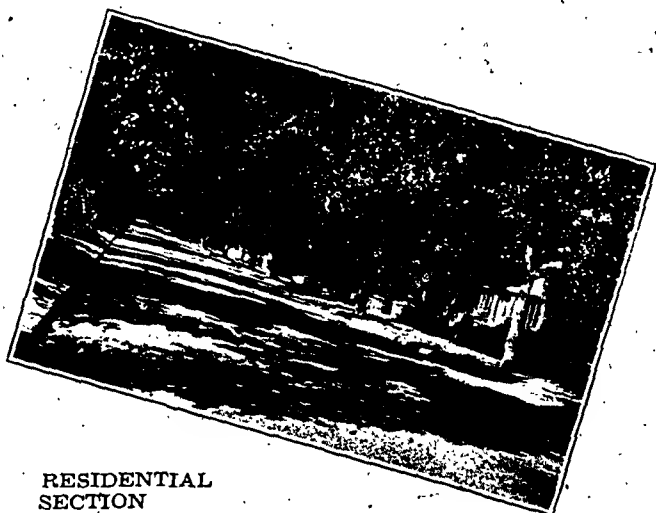
TYPICAL  
GARDEN SCENE



RIVERSIDE  
PARK



ROTARY PARK



RESIDENTIAL  
SECTION

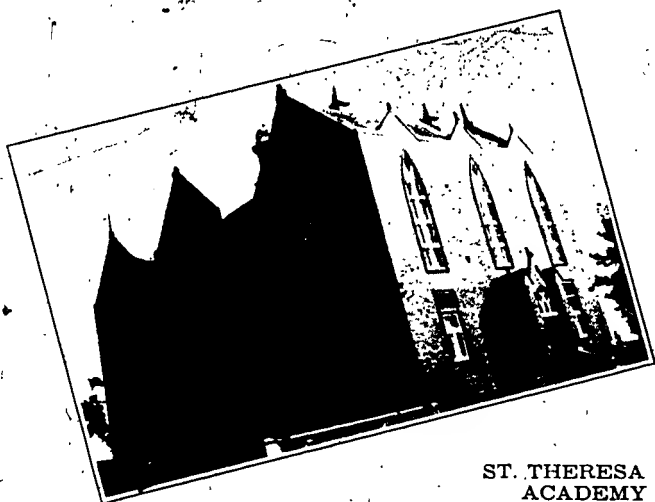
# *Medicine Hat Schools Second to None In the West*

One of the most impressive facts evidencing Medicine Hat's growth from a town to a city is the development of the local educational system. The schools of the city make ample provision for all that is modern in the way of the education of children—for special forms of Primary education, in the Kindergarten grade; for Elementary and advanced Manual Training; for Domestic Science; for Commercial Work; for Drawing and Art Work; for Music; for Medical Inspection and Physical Training. School accommodation is provided in large, permanent school buildings of pleasing architecture and good location, well-planned and well-equipped for all phases of modern education.

A well chosen staff of 80 teachers meets the educational requirements of a progressive management. Those in charge of the departments of school work are exceptionally well qualified teachers, capable of giving superior service in the classroom. The administration of school affairs is thoroughly systematized. Efficiency has been proved in the capable manner in which a rapidly growing school population has been received, accommodated, well graded and in all respects well provided for.

At the present time there are eight public schools, one High School, one Separate School, one Academy and three business colleges in the city of Medicine Hat. Attending these schools and colleges are well over 2,000 pupils.

The lively interest which the citizens of Medicine Hat take in school matters is strikingly manifest in the willingness of many of the most capable of their number, to serve in the interests of education as members of the Board of Public School Trustees.



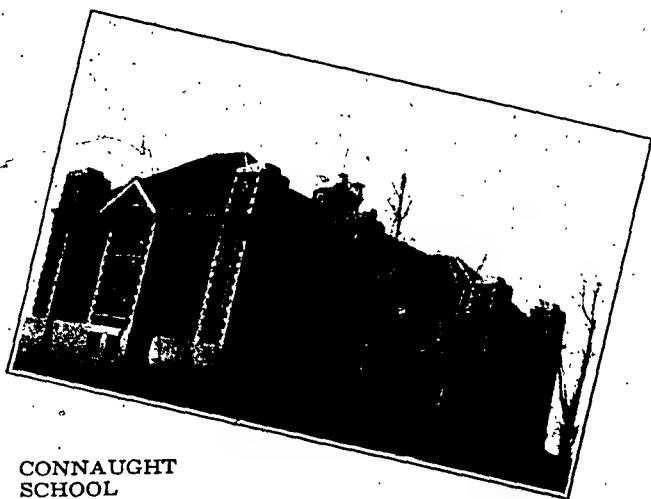
ST. THERESA  
ACADEMY



ALEXANDRA  
HIGH SCHOOL



ELM STREET  
SCHOOL



CONNAUGHT  
SCHOOL

# Accepted Story of How Medicine Hat Got Its Name

The source of the odd and famous name of our city is in Indian legendry. One of the most generally accepted traditions is that many years before the coming of the white man, the Cree tribes, who roamed between here and Calgary, made an attack on their inveterate enemies, the Blackfeet. The chief of all the attacking Crees had a very lovely daughter, Wa-pa-soos. Among the chief's lieutenants was the manly Kaus-ke-ta-o-pot, who wooed and won the fair Wa-pa-soos. The Crees set out upon their raid, accompanied by their wives and children, and after a strenuous march, arrived on the site of the present city of Medicine Hat. It was the dead of winter and the river was frozen over except at one spot which, doubtless due to undercurrents, had never been frozen, and on account of this phenomenon the Crees believed that in this place dwelt the Great Serpent.

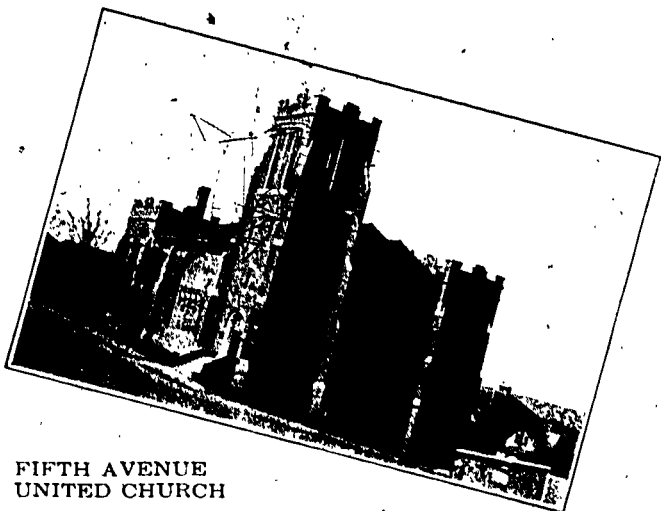
That afternoon Kaus took his horse to drink at this spot, and while the pony drank, there was a great swirling of waters and the Serpent reared its head above the river and spoke to him. If, said the Serpent, Kaus would bring his beloved bride, Wa-pa-soos, and hurl her into the river, he would direct Kaus to the secret hiding place of a charmed hat once used by a great Medicine Man; that the possession of this hat would enable Kaus to become the mightiest chief of all the Crees.

Sorely troubled, Kaus told all to the Chief and his lovely bride. Wa-pa-soos did not hesitate an instant. "Throw me to the Great Serpent," she cried, "so shall my husband become great." Kaus resisted, but eventually his own ambition and her entreaties proved too much for him and that evening he hurled Wa-pa-soos into the swirling waters of the river. The Serpent kept his promise and directed Kaus to the hidden Medicine Hat. That night the Blackfeet attacked the Crees, who were taken by surprise and temporarily driven back. However, by the aid of Kaus-ke-ta-o-pot's charmed hat the Crees were eventually victorious and from that time on this district was known as Medicine Hat.

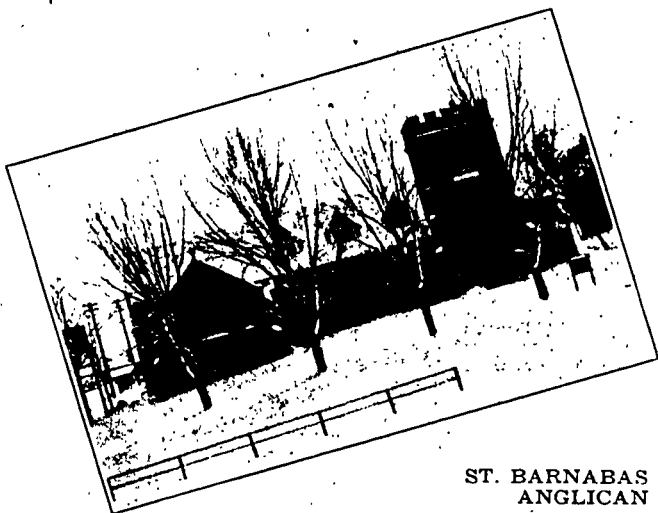


## Churches

Citizens are proud of the commercial and educational institutions of Medicine Hat, but the religious needs of the community have not been neglected. All Christian denominations are well represented and the city possesses a number of imposing church edifices. Among the denominations are Anglican, Presbyterian, Roman Catholic, United Church, Baptist, Christian Science and Lutheran.



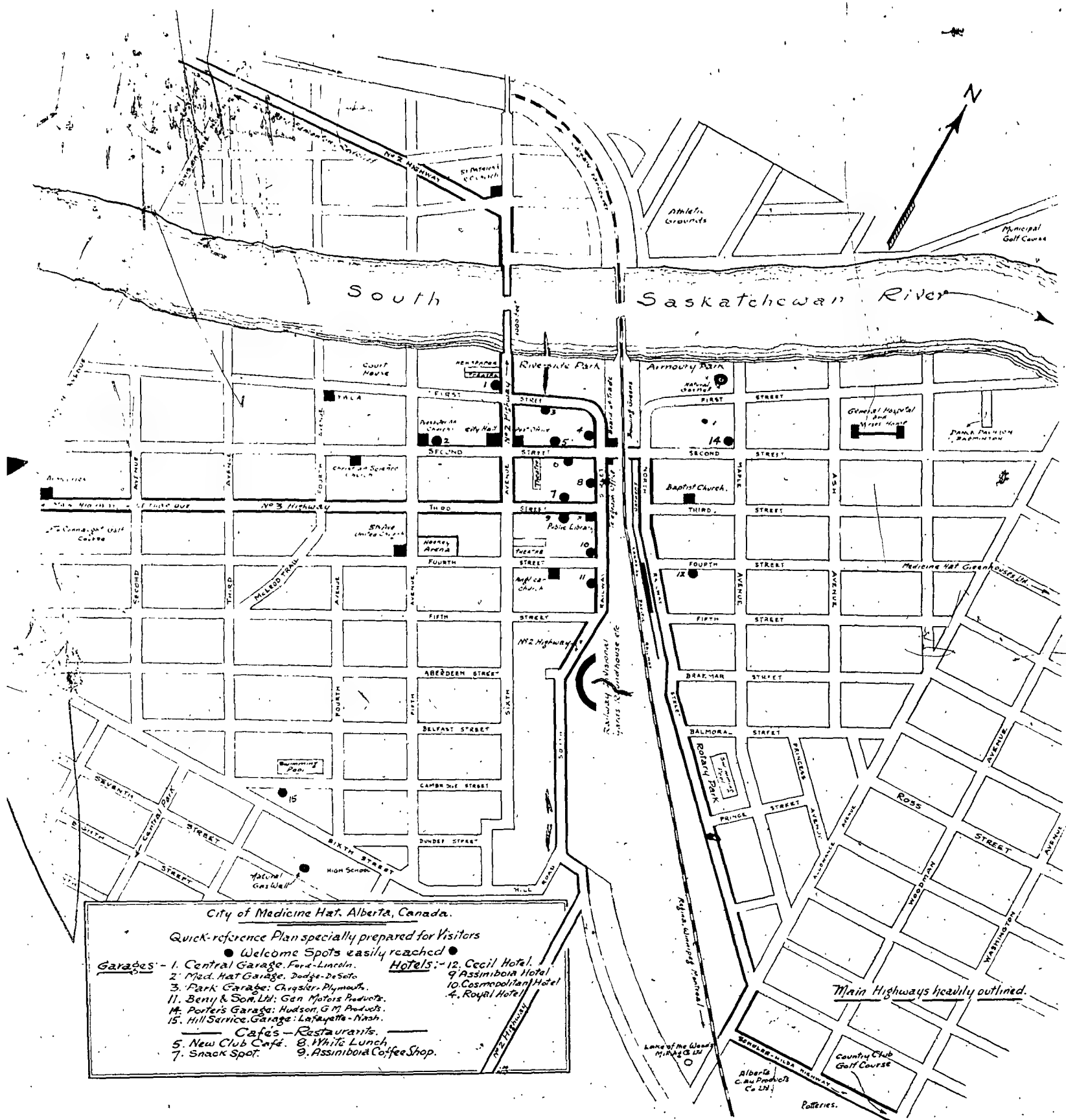
FIFTH AVENUE  
UNITED CHURCH



ST. BARNABAS  
ANGLICAN



ST. PATRICK'S  
ROMAN CATHOLIC

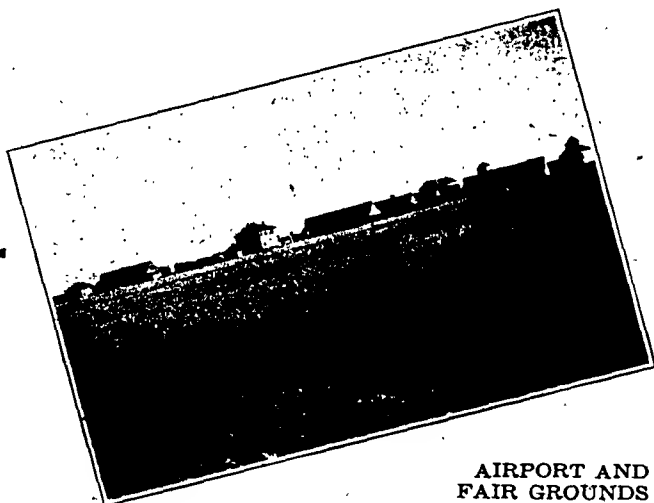


## ***Divisional Point For Railroad and Bus Transportation***

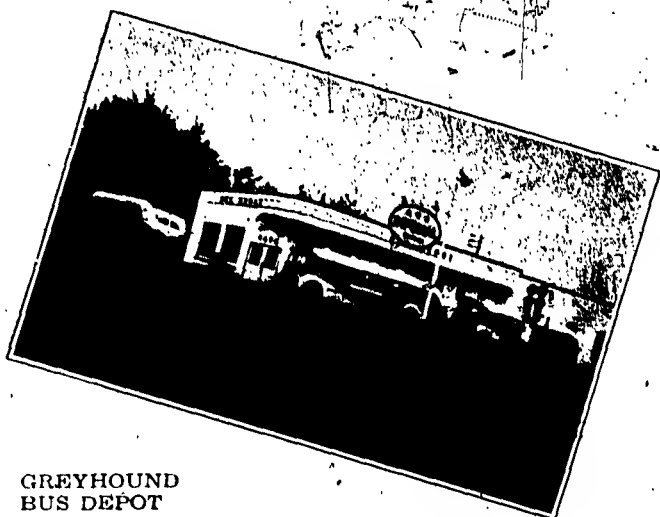
Medicine Hat is at the junction of the Canadian Pacific main line with the C.P.R.'s Crow's Nest Line, and has connections also with the Soo Line of the same system. 450 railway employees operate from the city, and a payroll upwards of \$120,000 is distributed throughout the entire district each month.

A modern Bus Depot was constructed in 1938, in the city centre. It serves as a terminal for the east and west trans-Canada mainline buses, as well as those through the Crow's Nest and South.

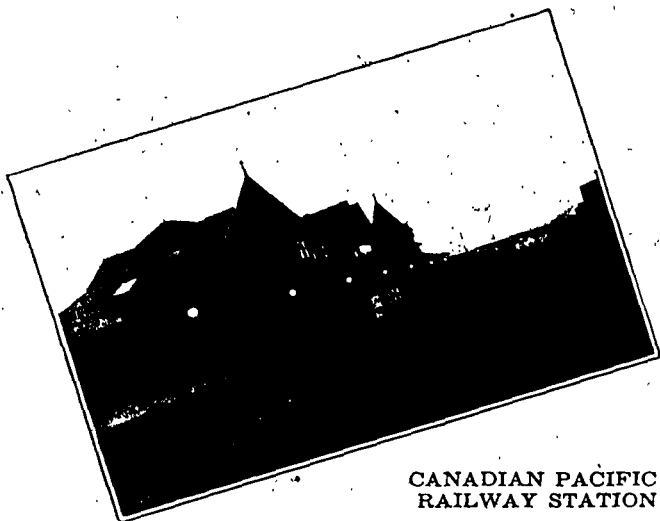
The Medicine Hat Airport is situated about three miles from the centre of the city. It has a large, well-lighted landing field and is equipped with modern navigational instruments. As this booklet goes to press, arrangements are being made for this airport to be a regular stopping point for Trans-Canada Airways planes.



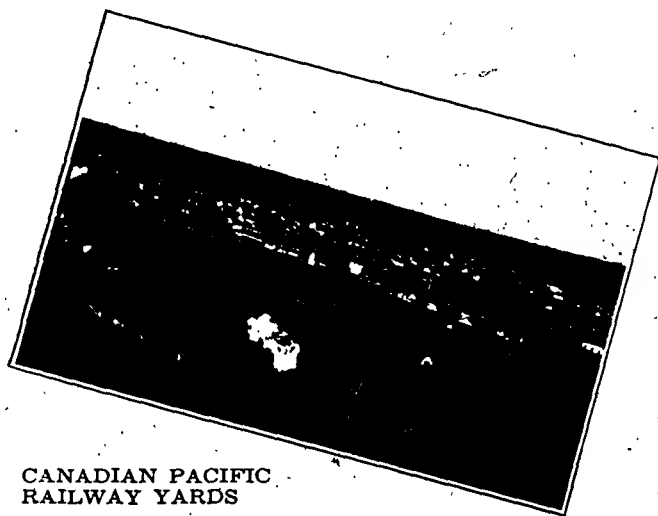
**AIRPORT AND  
FAIR GROUNDS**



GREYHOUND  
BUS DEPOT



CANADIAN PACIFIC  
RAILWAY STATION



CANADIAN PACIFIC  
RAILWAY YARDS

## ***Climate Suitable for Growing of Many Sub-tropical Plants***

The City of Medicine Hat prospers not only through its natural gas and industries, but also through its rich surrounding district. An enormous quantity of various fruits, grains and vegetables are produced commercially and shipped each year, as well as many carloads of cattle from the ranches in the adjacent area. In the city there are a number of greenhouses, with a total of 16 acres under glass. Bordering the South Saskatchewan River are many irrigated market gardens, growing a variety of crops in large quantities. A number are devoted almost exclusively to the cultivation of popcorn on a large scale.

Many of the citizens of the city have devoted themselves to the cultivation of flower gardens which are unsurpassed by those of any other Western Canadian city. However, the citizens have not confined their gardens to flowers but produce a variety of fruits. Such fruits as strawberries, raspberries, gooseberries, crabapples, grapes, plums, apples, canteloupe and watermelon are grown in quantities for individual use.

Among the crops produced commercially, a brief survey of the approximate shipments made annually from the city will provide some idea of the productivity of the immediate district:

800 tons	onions shipped each year
10,000 cases	hot house cucumbers
12,000 cases	hot house tomatoes
25 tons	green peppers
150 tons	carrots
75 tons	turnips
60 tons	parsnips
300 tons	cabbages
25 tons	beets
750,000 dozen	corn
75 tons	rhubarb
15 tons	celery
5 tons	spinach
10,000 heads	of cauliflower
75 tons	of cucumbers (outdoor)
3,000 cases	of tomatoes (outdoor)
5 tons	of pumpkin
5 tons	of citron
5 tons	of squash
5 tons	of vegetable marrow
4 carloads	of canteloupe

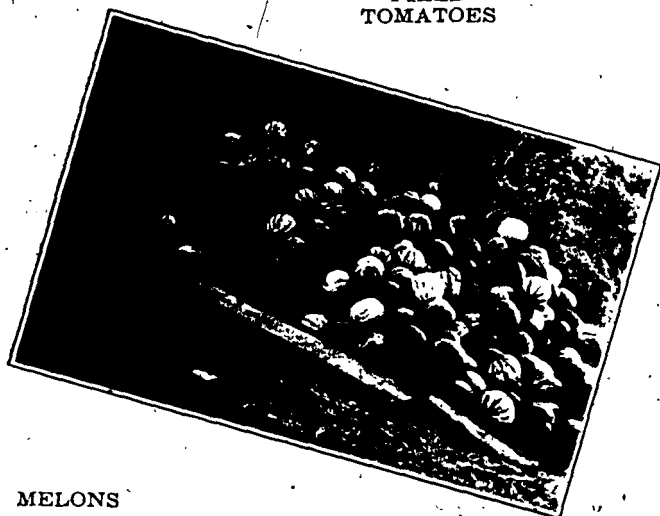
These crops are shipped as far east as Winnipeg, Manitoba, as far west as Nelson, British Columbia, and north to the Peace River District.



FIELD OF  
ONIONS



FIELD  
TOMATOES



MELONS

## ***Medicine Hat - - -***

### ***"The City With All Hell for a Basement"***

***- - - Kipling***

As early as 1883 the C.P.R. was boring for water in the Medicine Hat district and accidentally struck a small flow of gas, which was used for the purpose of heating the section house. But for eight years no one dreamed of the vast field which was to be discovered later. The second supply was discovered when the town and the C.P.R. drilled a well to a depth of 650 feet and a flow of gas, with a pressure of 250 pounds to the inch, was encountered. This gas, however, contained a large percentage of moisture and the field remained undeveloped for another 14 years.

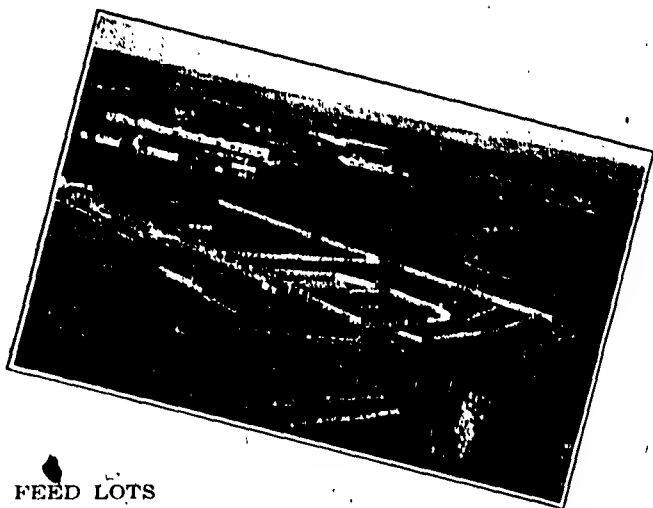
In 1905 the city decided to drill deeper and their perseverance was richly rewarded at the depth of 1,010 feet when an enormous flow of perfectly dry gas was struck with a pressure of 550 pounds to the inch. Medicine Hat—the first city in Alberta to operate a natural gas system—sold gas to domestic consumers at 13½¢ per 1,000 cubic feet, and to manufacturers at 5¢, with a profit of \$25,375.80.

From this period on the city went in for extensive development and now owns and controls 20 wells. No dry hole has yet been struck. In addition to these, a number of private wells have been drilled by industrial concerns. The houses in Medicine Hat use natural gas almost exclusively and it is used for fuel under the boilers in the manufacturing plants and for burning brick.

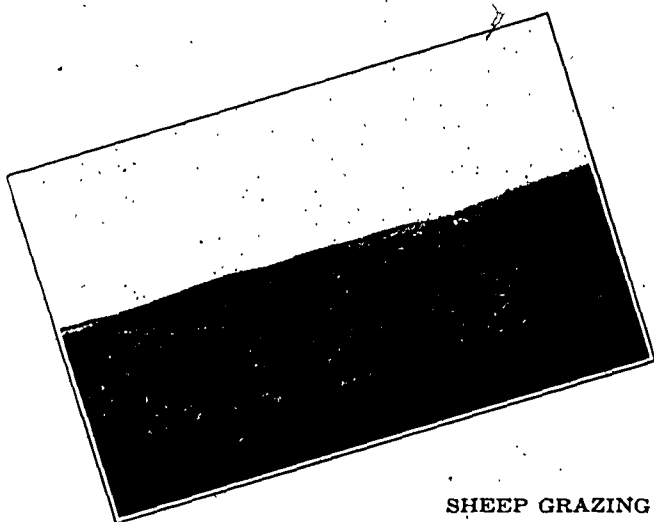
In 1931 the city opened up a new area in a northeasterly direction in which, since then, there has been extensive development. A well was brought in with a rock pressure of 501 pounds and an open flow of 3,200,000 cubic feet, and city officials and government geologists are well satisfied that the new field will yield a good flow of gas for many years to come.

## ***Farming — Ranching***

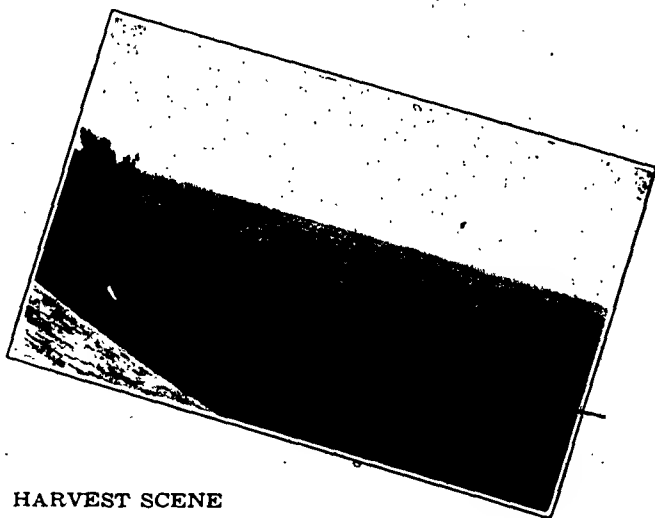
Among the agricultural activities of the city and district, by far the most important are cattle ranching, sheep ranching and wheat farming. Hundreds of carloads of prime beef cattle are shipped from the district each year; tens of thousands of sheep feed upon the ideal pastures of this district, and between one-half a million and a million bushels of wheat are marketed in Medicine Hat annually, as well as a greater amount from immediately surrounding points.



FEED LOTS



SHEEP GRAZING



HARVEST SCENE

## ***Best Recreationally Equipped City In the West***

In the City of Medicine Hat are facilities for many types of sport. It has three excellent golf courses which adequately supply the needs of the many golfers in the City.

The Medicine Hat Golf and Country Club is situated about seven miles from the city. Its eighteen holes are well laid out in a natural surrounding which is a delight to any golfer. The modern and well-built club house serves the requirements of the members and guests.

The Medicine Hat Golf Club, situated about three miles from the business section, has a spacious and well-equipped club house. It is an eighteen-hole course artistically laid out along the banks of the South Saskatchewan River.

The Connaught Golf Club, within walking distance of the city centre, is also an eighteen-hole course. It is planned around a coulee, which beautifies the course and supplies many natural hazards.

The city has three excellent tennis clubs, each equipped with asphalt courts and suitable club houses.

To supply the needs of the bowling enthusiast, the city has two fine bowling clubs.

The city is also well equipped, with indoor and outdoor shooting ranges, as well as a popular skeet club.

There are two large, modern swimming pools within the city, as well as a number of wading pools for the younger children.

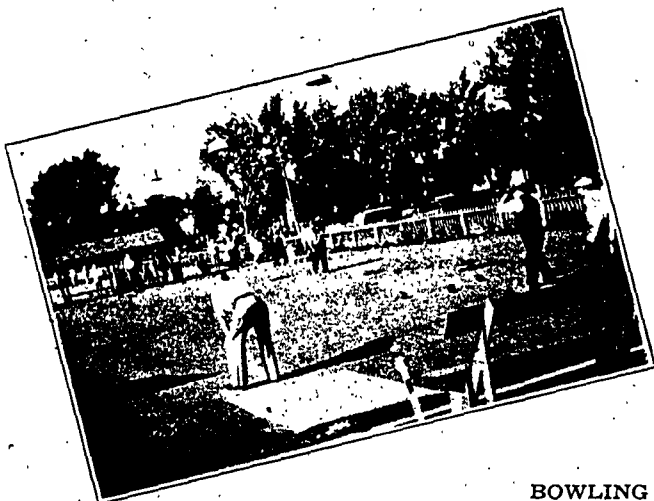
A large and well-built arena, with a seating capacity of 2,000, and a four-sheet curling club, and a modern four-court badminton club fill all the requirements of the winter sportsman.

### ***Tourists !***

Recreational facilities for young and old are well provided for in the City of Medicine Hat. The swimming pools are available to children until 5 p.m. without charge. Adults have access to golf courses and swimming pools at nominal charge.



GOLFING



BOWLING



TENNIS

# ***Gas City Provides Many Advantages To Manufacturers***

The City of Medicine Hat, though situated in the heart of the rich prairie country known as "Sunny Southern Alberta", can lay claim to special features, other than farming, which tend to make it a thriving and prosperous centre. On account of the cheap fuel obtained from its natural gas field, Medicine Hat boasts of being the chief manufacturing centre of the western provinces. It is located about midway between Calgary and Moose Jaw, and hence is the distributing centre for a large and rich area of country.

Among the many larger industries in operation in Medicine Hat, representing a large investment and employing many hands, are the following:

Alberta Clay Products  
Alberta Foundry & Machine Co.  
Alberta Linseed Oil Mills  
Gas City Planing Mills  
Maple Leaf Milling Co.  
Lake of the Woods Milling Co.  
Medalta Potteries Ltd.  
Medicine Hat Potteries  
Ogilvie Flour Mills  
Medicine Hat Greenhouses  
Crystal Dairy Co.  
The Ajax Coal Co.  
The Gas City Flour Mill Co.  
National Fruit Co., Ltd. (Soft Drinks)  
Shamrock Bottling Works  
Dominion Glass Co. (Redcliff)  
The Gunderson Brick & Coal Co. (Redcliff)  
The Redcliff Premier Brick Co. (Redcliff)  
The Redcliff Pressed Brick Co. (Redcliff)

---

## **LIST OF SERVICE CLUBS**

### **ROTARY CLUB—**

Mondays, 12:15; Assiniboia Hotel

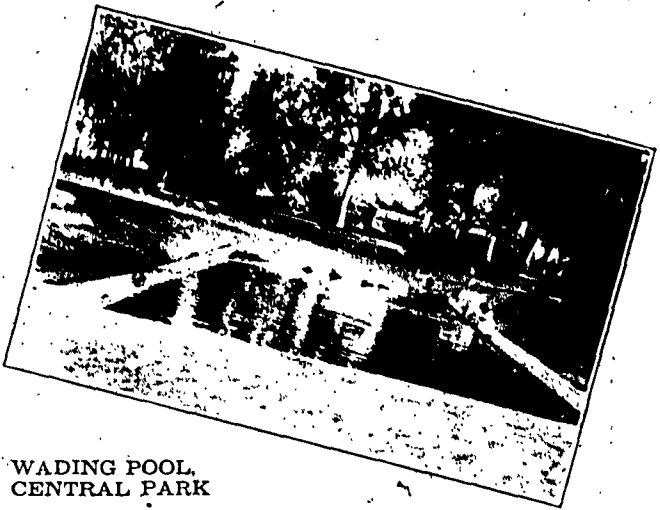
### **KIWANIS CLUB—**

Tuesdays, 12:15, Cosmopolitan Hotel

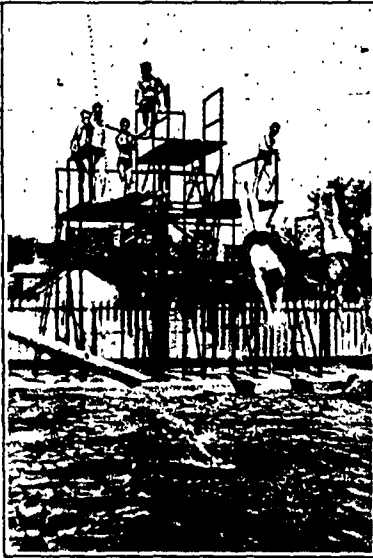
### **KINSMEN CLUB—**

Second Monday, 6:30; Assiniboia Hotel

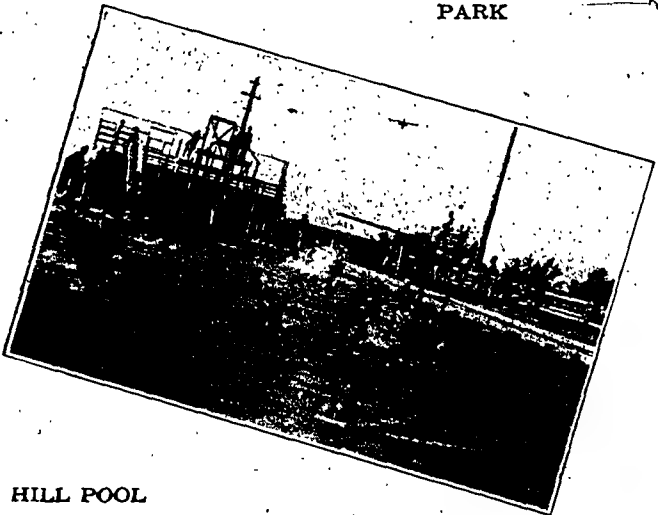
**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION** regarding City of Medicine Hat write Secretary Medicine Hat Chamber of Commerce. For location of office see map "City Centre."



WADING POOL,  
CENTRAL PARK



ROTARY  
PARK



HILL POOL

## Industries Find Cheap Power A Boon

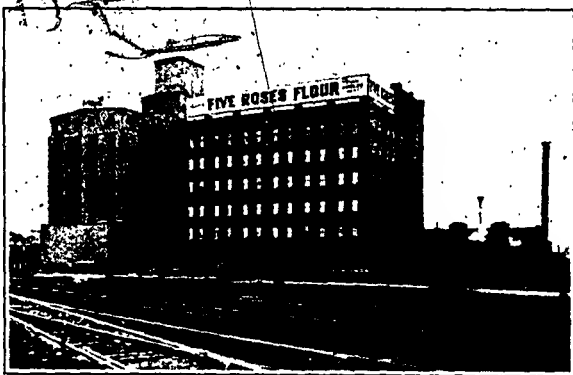
**The Lake of the Woods Milling Co., Ltd.**—One of Canada's larger milling companies with mills across Canada, has a mill situated in the City of Medicine Hat. Plant capacity for flour and millfeed output is equivalent to 155 tons per day; elevator storage, 225,000 bus. Markets: Supply territory in Western Saskatchewan, Alberta and British Columbia; also various export markets via Pacific Coast.

**Maple Leaf Milling Co., Ltd.**—Daily capacity of mill, 1,500 barrels; markets: the Western Provinces, the Orient, United States and United Kingdom. Approximately 100 employees; sales branches maintained in all the principal cities throughout Western Canada.

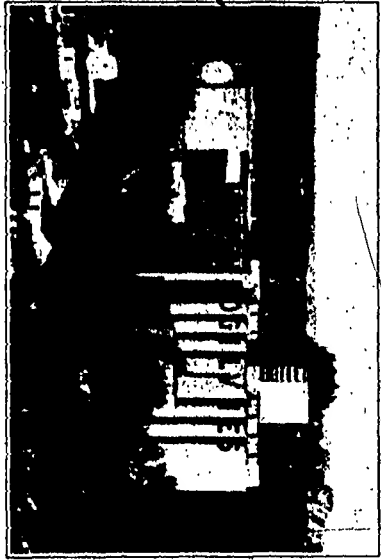
**Alberta Clay Products Co., Ltd.**—Commenced business, May 1909; products: glazed sewer pipe, tile lining, wall coping, segment sewer blocks, drain tile, fire-proofing, hollow building tile, red pressed brick; markets: from Port Arthur to Vancouver Island; capacity: 2,000 carloads per year.

**The Ogilvie Flour Mills Co., Ltd.**—Company established, 1801. Mill, largest in Medicine Hat, includes fourteen buildings with twenty-four acres of land. Daily capacity: 5,000 98-lb. bags flour, 1,500 bags feed; elevator capacity: 400,000 bushels; markets: Western Provinces, exports to the Orient, United Kingdom and Continental European countries. The plant employs 150. Other mills are located at Montreal, Fort William, Winnipeg, Edmonton. Warehouses and sales offices in all cities throughout Canada.

The Altitude of Medicine Hat	-----	2,181 ft.
Mean Summer Temperature	-----	61°
Mean Winter Temperature	-----	16.75°
Annual Precipitation	-----	12.97 in.
(Over a period of 52 years.)		



LAKE OF THE WOODS MILLING CO., LTD.



(Left)

Ogilvie Flour Mills Co., Ltd.

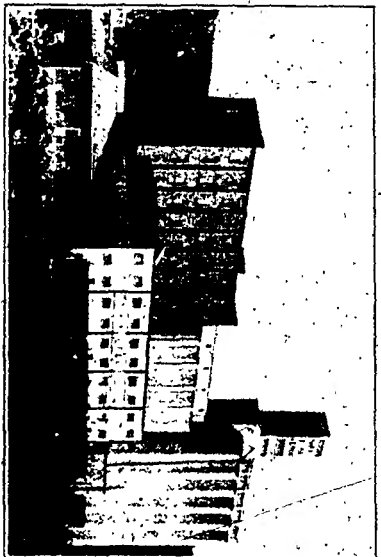
(Right)

Maple Leaf Milling Co., Ltd.

(Below)

Alberta Clay Products  
Co., Ltd.

Medicine Hat Potteries



# Nationally Known Manufacturers Located Here

**Medicine Hat Greenhouses Limited**—Largest area under glass west of Brampton, Ont.—i.e. 9½ acres. Crops grown: Thousands of chrysanthemums, roses and carnations; a full range of potted plants; thousands of lilies grown for Easter; during Spring season, tons of tomatoes and cucumbers are produced; a full range of miscellaneous flowers grown. As many as 1,000 pots of Easter lilies shipped to one customer. Markets: From Sudbury, Ont., to Victoria, B.C.

**Medalta Potteries Ltd.**—Capacity: 300 cars per year; products: stoneware, earthenware, artware, hotel ware; markets: coast to coast, and artware to New Zealand, Australia and the United States. The Medalta Potteries Ltd., one of the largest in Canada, has been operating in Medicine Hat for the past 23 years.

**Medicine Hat Potteries**—Commenced business, May 1938. Products: stoneware crocks, churns, water coolers, jars, jugs, white and colored bowls, dinnerware, lamp bases and novelties; capacity: 150 carloads; markets: over every Province in Canada.

---

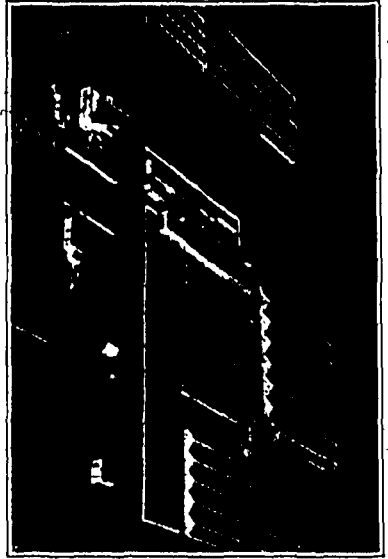
## THE CITY HAS

- 6½ miles of paved streets
- 14 miles of concrete sidewalks
- 3 miles of cinder sidewalks
- 5 miles of wooden sidewalks
- 14 miles of concrete curbing.

Population of Medicine Hat	10,000
Area	5,000 acres
Water Mains	38 miles
Area of Gas Field	20,000 acres
Parks	7
Number of Gas Wells	22



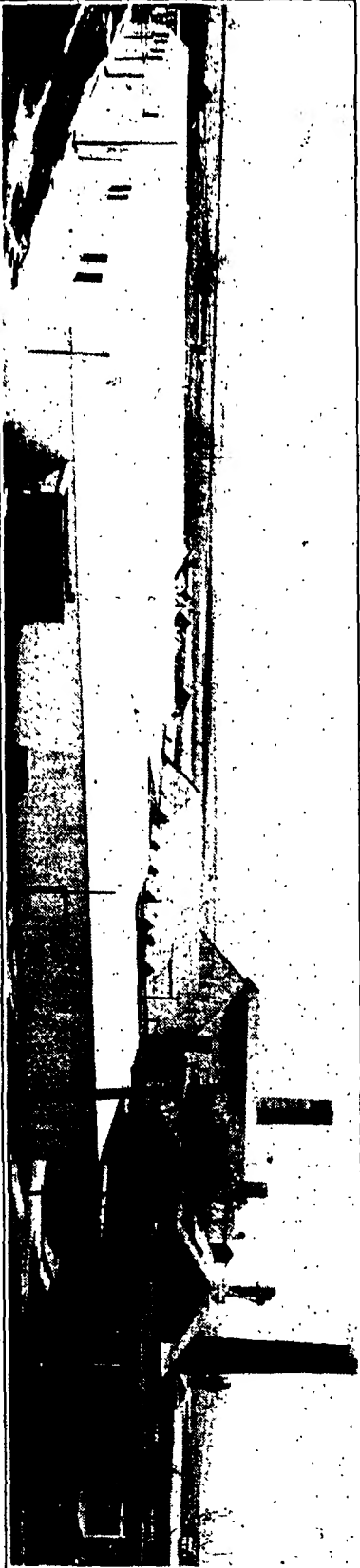
• MEDALTA POTTERIES LTD.

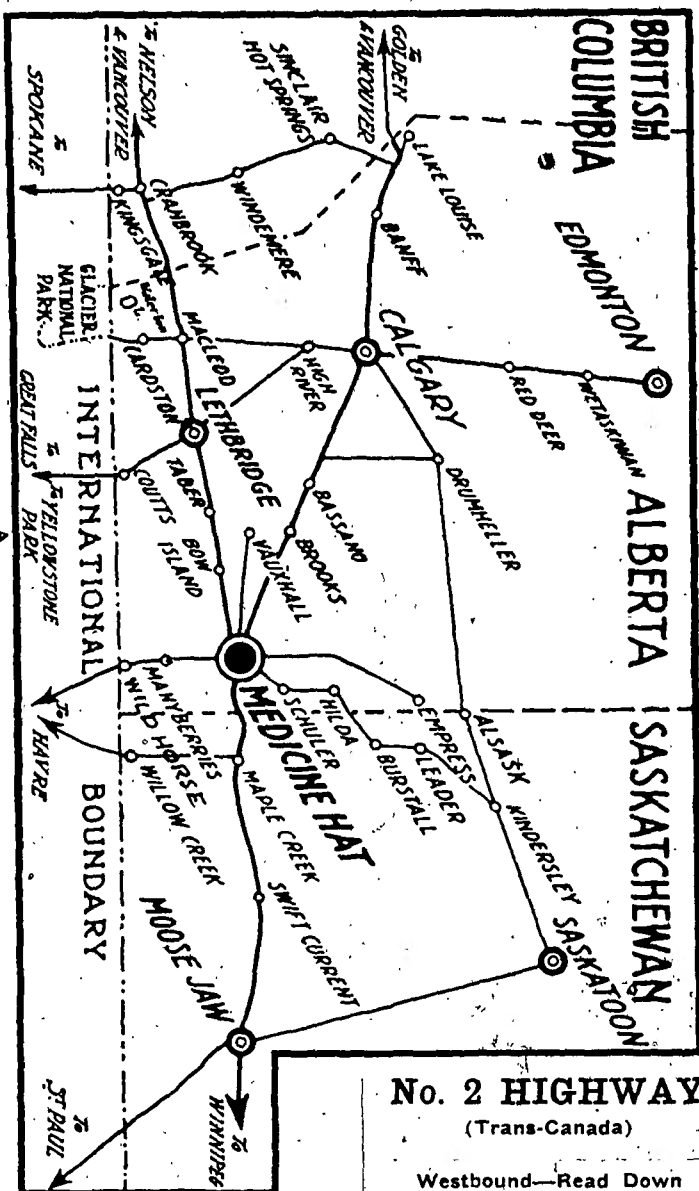


(Left)  
MEDICINE HAT GREENHOUSES  
LTD.

(Right)  
MEDICINE HAT BRICK & TILE  
CO., LTD.

(Below)  
DOMINION GLASS CO., LTD.  
(REDCLIFF)





## No. 2 HIGHWAY

(Trans-Canada)

Westbound—Read Down  
Eastbound—Read Up

### Mileage from MEDICINE HAT

To other points on branch  
highways running from  
the city:

CRANBROOK	314
MACLEOD	142
CARDSTON	163
LETHBRIDGE	109
EDMONTON	392
RED DEER	293
DRUMHELLER	247
SASKATOON	358
VAUXHALL	73
EMPRESS	100
HILDA	60
WILD HORSE	110

WINNIPEG	721
BRANDON	579
PORTAL	461
REGINA	324
MOOSE JAW	278
SWIFT CURRENT	158
MAPLE CREEK	61
MEDICINE HAT	0
BROOKS	68
BASSANO	128
CALGARY	195
BANFF	281
LAKE LOUISE	322